



Mayors and Managers Meeting Notes from 8.31.2020

Municipalities Participating: Addison, Bensenville, Burr Ridge, Carol Stream, Clarendon Hills, Darien, Glendale Heights, Hanover Park, Hinsdale, Itasca, Lisle, Naperville, Oakbrook, Warrenville, Westmont, West Chicago, Westmont, Willowbrook, S. Quintell – DuPage Mayors and Managers

DuPage County Representatives Participants: Sheryl Markay, Chief Policy & Program Officer

DuPage County Health Department Participants: Karen Ayala, Executive Director; Rashmi Chugh, Medical Officer; Dennis Brennan, Legislative Manager; Chris Hoff, Director of Community Health Resources; Penny Chanez, Executive Asst.

Purpose of the call today with Mayors and Managers is to address updated case counts, Community and business updates and guidance. DuPage County Health Department Deputy Incident Commander, Chris Hoff facilitated the meeting.

Executive Director, Karen Ayala welcomed everyone, and shared the following:

- With Labor Day approaching, Director Ayala expressed appreciation for local leaders' extra efforts in promoting Public Health prevention measures with their constituents
- Director Ayala noted the concerning increases in positive case counts throughout several Midwest regions.
- Today's call will include more information on school re-openings.

COVID-19 UPDATE ON ILLINOIS AND DUPAGE COUNTY CASES

The Health Department's Medical Officer, Dr. Chugh provided the following case updates and remarks.

Case Counts continues to rise nationally.

- Nationally
 - Confirmed cases: 5,999,464
 - Deaths: 183,083
- State of Illinois
 - confirmed cases: 233,355
 - deaths: 8,019
 - Recovery rate of 95%
- DuPage County
 - confirmed cases: 14,459
 - deaths: 533
 - Recovery rate of 94.8%

Trend lines continue to show increased case counts throughout the county

- June 23rd - the seven day rolling average was 35.3 cases per day
- Aug. 22nd – the seven day rolling average was 124.6 cases per day

Trend lines for severe outcomes continues to show low level of hospitalizations and deaths. Director Ayala added that although these numbers continue to remain low the current data still indicates that 16 people out of every 100 cases does require some form of hospitalization.

Data/DuPage County Health Department COVID-19 Dashboard Review

Dr. Chugh and Mr. Hoff provided the following updates and current data trends:

- Additional data has been added the Health Department COVID-19 dashboard that reflects all cases over time by age group.
- Data on community transmission levels has been added to assist area schools as a tool they can use as they evaluate their school re-opening plans.
- Current data indicates that individuals aged 15-19 years are driving the increases found in the under 20 age group.
- The Health Department monitors the positive cases trends in school aged children carefully to the overall effects on community transmission levels.
- Metrics include 3 levels of community transmission and help provide direction on the type of re-opening that works best for a school based in a particular community and the level of transmission found in that community.
- On Friday, August 28th the Health Department released a document that provides a framework for schools to assist with their re-opening plans. The health department will also be updating the associated metrics and level of community transmission weekly. These documents were shared with area schools and are located on the Health Department's website:
<https://www.dupagehealth.org/595/Schools-and-Daycares>
- The Health Department continues to work closely with Regional Office of Education and area school Superintendents. The Village of Itasca expressed their appreciation for the work the Health Department is doing to assist schools and that they received positive feedback from the schools in their community.
- Full in person learning without maintaining current Public Health recommendations of masking and maintaining social distancing cannot be recognized until a safe vaccine is widely used or sustained low-level activity is achieved.
- Currently DuPage County is at a 5.1% positivity rate. This does indicate a slight uptick in the positivity rate.
- All other COVID-19 health indicators remain low and DuPage County is currently considered in the moderate level of overall COVID-19 activity.

Chat box question on school re-openings:

Kevin Barr - Just to be clear, the final decision on school model followed is up to the district, or private institution? In other words, these are just guidelines?

- Mr. Hoff responded yes, the final decision is up to each school district, the Health Department's role is to provide data and a framework to assist schools.

MISC UPDATES

Additional information was provided to address the following chat box and participant questions.

Mayor Pecak of Lisle shared data he compiled based from the 2019 Census data which reflects increases in the number of individuals over the age 65 residing in DuPage County as well as other demographic changes and requested clarification on the Health Department's use of 2010 census data when compiling case data information.

- Dr. Chugh responded that the 2010 Census data is the most complete data available from an epidemiological perspective and intercensal year data is not as accurately representative. The 2020 Census data are currently being collected. Dr. Chugh further addressed the question of non-county resident data. The Health Department's COVID-19 dashboard data only reflect data collected on DuPage County residents.

Mayor Chirico of Naperville.

Do you have any contact tracing transmission source data to share? And, is there any data to suggest that restaurant servers have a higher infection rate than the general public?

- Dr. Chugh responded: We're working with the state to be able to track our case investigation/contact tracing data more specifically. We're not seeing any association yet between servers (particularly masked servers) and customers or higher infection rate among servers.

Ms. Cergo of Itasca

When was the last time return to work guidance for employers was updated?

- Mr. Hoff responded: As discussed the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity guidelines continue to apply. DCEO issued an updated FAQ as of 8/27 to clarify questions.
<https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/Documents/Phase%204%20Business%20Guidance%20FAQ.pdf>.
These are available on the DCEO website.

Dr. Lalmalani requested clarification on outdoor professional gatherings in hotel environments and if there are any liability issues for participants in attendance if these gatherings are above the allowable amount of 50 individuals in group settings.

- Mr. Hoff responded that the business team will assist any businesses that have question on the guidelines. The number of individuals allowed in group setting remains at 50. Director Ayala added that individuals follow the example set by leaders.

Director Ayala and Dr. Chugh also shared final thoughts on recent questions as to why DuPage County Health Department leaders are more conservative in their response and approach to COVID-19 when current data shows an improvement in overall outcomes. The following are areas of concern that have yet to be addressed both at a national level and local level which can reverse current trends and result in more dire consequences until a proven vaccine is available.

- Current data are showing increases in COVID-19 case activity
- The nature of human behavior and the consequences of not following Public Health protocols for limiting the spread of disease
- The unanswered question on what the effects of school re-openings will be and how will this impact community transmission
- The effects of Labor Day and other upcoming holidays and the results from increased social gatherings
- The impact of the flu season and other respiratory diseases which are more prevalent in the fall/winter.
- The impacts of more confined indoor settings as temperatures get colder
- The lack of federal guidance/guidelines as witnessed in other states such as Florida and California who have now surpassed New York in their total case counts.
- There is so much that remains unknown with this new virus.

There was no further discussion. Participants were encouraged to reach out with any other concerns or questions. There will be no call on Monday, September 7th due to the Labor Day holiday. Director Ayala concluded the call at 11:00AM with no further discussion.